

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Chancellor Johnson House (AA-678)
St. John's College, Annapolis

The Chancellor Johnson House was constructed circa 1720 at 9 Northwest Street. By 1778, Allen Quynn, a cordwainer and former Mayor of Annapolis, owned the dwelling on Lot 71 until his death in 1821. Ten years later, in 1831, John Johnson, Jr. had purchased the modest wood frame dwelling, in addition to the several other brick and wood frame buildings on the property. Serving as Chancellor of Maryland, Johnson and his family owned the gambrel roof house at 9 Northwest Street until 1918. Threatened with demolition, the building was given in 1937 to St. John's College. It was relocated to the southwestern edge of the campus, south of Mellon Hall on St. John's Street. The Chancellor Johnson House was the first of two buildings moved to the campus of St. John's College, the second being the circa 1724 Charles Carroll the Barrister House in 1955. The building is significant for its association with the Johnson family, and for its association with St. John's College's role in early preservation efforts in Annapolis. The Chancellor Johnson House is also significant architecturally as a one of Annapolis' earliest gambrel roof colonial dwellings.

Typical for its period, the Johnson house is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay wide structure. It is rectangular in plan and measures approximately 14 x 40 feet. The wood frame house is raised upon a rebuilt concrete foundation, has random-width beaded weatherboard walls, and is covered with a steeply sloped gambrel roof sheathed with wood shingles. A distinctive T-shaped brick chimney (rebuilt following the move) with corbeling projects from off-center of the roof. Three asymmetrically placed shed dormers allow for a full attic story on the interior of the modest house. The interior is divided into three rooms on the first floor and three rooms plus a corridor on the second floor.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-678

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Chancellor Johnson House, St. John's College

other Reverdy Johnson House; Allen Quynn House

2. Location

street and number 60 College Avenue not for publication

city, town Annapolis vicinity

county Anne Arundel

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name St. John's College

street and number 60 College Avenue, Box 2800 telephone 410/263-2371

city, town Annapolis state MD zip code 21404

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse tax map and parcel

city, town Annapolis liber folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☒ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☒ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Commemorative		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				1	

7. Description

Inventory No. AA-678

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one-paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The modest Chancellor Johnson House was built circa 1720 and moved from its original location on Northwest Street to the St. John's College campus in 1937. Typical for its period, the Johnson house is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay wide structure. It is rectangular in plan and measures approximately 14 x 40 feet. The wood frame house is raised upon a rebuilt concrete foundation, has random-width beaded weatherboard walls¹, and is covered with a steeply sloped gambrel roof sheathed with wood shingles. A distinctive T-shaped brick chimney (rebuilt following the move) with corbeling projects from off-center of the roof. Three asymmetrically placed shed dormers allow for a full attic story on the interior of the modest house. The interior is divided into three rooms on the first floor and three rooms plus a corridor on the second floor.

Exterior Description:

The northwest elevation of the house is divided into six informal and asymmetrical bays consisting of a single entry door and five windows. The main entry, reached by a wooden stair porch with railing, is located in the third bay from the north. This opening holds a single, six-paneled wood door with square-edged trim and a wood sill. Two 6/6 windows are located to the northeast of the door and three 6/6 windows are found to the southwest. All of the windows have narrow molded trim and wood sills. Three shed dormers in the front slope of the gambrel roof are asymmetrically placed between the first and second bays; the fourth and fifth bays; and over the sixth bay of the facade. The dormers have single 6/6 windows, with square-edged trim, shed roofs, and cheek walls clad with wood shingles.

The southeast (rear) elevation of the dwelling consists of four openings, including a single door (originally a window), two 6/6 windows and a six-light casement (originally a longer window). The rear entry, located towards the southern corner, has a modern French door opening onto a makeshift wooden porch. Next to the door is a single 6/6 window with narrow molded trim. A slightly longer 6/6 window, similarly with narrow molded trim, is located towards the northern end of the building, while a six-light casement is found between the two older openings. The casement, a mid-20th-century addition, has square-edged trim. Three shed-roof dormers, asymmetrically arranged across the elevation, are in alignment with those on the front facade. The dormers similarly feature 6/6 windows and wood shingled cheek walls and roofs.

The northeast end wall is a completely unfenestrated wall surface that clearly reveals the varying lengths of the original beaded weatherboard siding. A metal bulkhead entrance into the excavated basement level (1968 addition) is located on center of the foundation wall. A thin molded raking cornice with returns makes the transition from wall to roof.

¹ The beaded boards range from 6-3/4" to 10-1/4" in width.

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Unlike the solid northeast end wall, the southwest end wall has three openings: a single 6-paneled wood door on center of the first story and two 4/4 windows in the attic level. The entry door has square-edged trim, while the windows have narrow molded trim. A plain board runs across the end wall at the level of the cornice, and a molded raking cornice outlines the edge of the roof.

Interior Description:

On the first floor, the interior is divided into two principal rooms (front and rear parlors), a small corridor between them, and a rear stair hall with separate access. On the second floor there are three rooms connected by a lateral corridor. The main entry, located on the northwest elevation, enters directly into the front parlor, opposite the massive chimney breast. The square room is simply appointed with historic, but probably not original, narrow 2-1/2"-wide floorboards and plaster walls with a 4"-high wood baseboard and molded cap. The ceiling is also plastered, with narrow crown molding. A fireplace, located on center of the interior wall, is a robust vernacular example, probably from the late 18th to early 19th century. It has plain, wide pilasters atop a molded base and supporting a plain, wide frieze board and rounded mantel shelf. Originally, there were doors located to either side of the fireplace. At the front, the door has been filled in, while the door at the back wall still provides access into the middle room (rear parlor). The door and window trim in this room is square-edged with mitred joints.

The interior door of this room leads into a small corridor that in turn leads into the rear parlor. This corridor has 2-1/2"-wide wood floorboards which run continuously from the front office. The walls are plaster and have 4"-wide wood baseboard, as in the front room. This room, partitioned from the original front room, has a casement window that fit into a larger opening, all of which appears to date from 1937 when the building was moved. The casement, which is nailed with wire nails and hinged, has square-edged trim. The original opening is closed at the top by vertical boards and on the bottom by plaster infill.

The rear parlor is two bays deep with two single windows on the front wall and a door (originally a window) and window on the rear wall. A fireplace is centered on the interior end wall of the room and features a wood mantel similar to that in the front parlor. Changes in the plaster wall surface next to the fireplace clearly indicate the location of a door opening between the front and the rear rooms. The walls and ceiling are plaster, and there is a 4"-high wood baseboard with a rounded cap. The door and window trim is square-edged.

The third and rear room on the first floor is the back stair hall and kitchen (current use). Entered from the exterior from a door located on the end wall, this is a small room whose floors are set lower than the

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parlors. Located in the south corner of this room is a quarter-turn, closed stringer stair with a beaded facestring, square newel posts, and square balusters. A single 4/1 window (blocked up), located in the end wall of the house, opens onto the stair on the interior. The window trim is square-edged with mitred joints.

The stair opens onto one end of the second floor with a long, lateral corridor providing access to three individual rooms. Three windows (the shed dormers) with square-edged trim with mitred joints are located against the outside wall of the corridor. The corridor has narrow, 2"-wide wood floorboards, plaster walls with a 5"-high baseboard and molded cap and a contemporary, applied crown molding. Of particular note on this floor is the relatively high ceilings for a gambrel-roofed structure.²

The rear room, immediately adjacent to the stair and entered through a five-paneled wood replacement door, is now a small bathroom. The middle room, now an office, is entered through a plywood replacement door with square-edged trim and has a fireplace located off-center of its northeastern interior wall. The fireplace has a molded mantel surround and a mantel shelf with bold profiles. A single window recessed into the front wall provides direct outside light into the room, while the windows from the corridor provide borrowed light.

At a point corresponding with the interior partition wall between the front and center room, the corridor is ramped to accommodate an inexplicable change in level. The corridor continues to a five-paneled replacement door leading directly into the front room, now an office. The front room thus extends the full width of the building, and has the advantage of windows on both its front and rear wall. A fireplace is located on center of the interior end wall, with a door leading to the corridor to one side and a closet opened into the other. The mantel is similar to that in the center room, but not identical. It has a relatively plain surround, ornamented only by a beaded, square-edged molding framing the opening. The surround supports a narrow mantel shelf with bold profiles similar to the other second-floor mantel. The fireplace opening is itself segmental-arched with a brick fireback. All of the door and window trim in the room is square-edged with mitred joints.

² The ceilings on this floor are higher than on the first floor. It may be that the roof was somehow raised when the building was moved, though there is no apparent evidence for this on the exterior. Because there is no access to the roof, however, no assessment of the roof construction and its history could be determined.

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The cellar of the building was excavated when the house was moved in 1937 and the foundation walls rebuilt. The walls are concrete block parged with a concrete finish and the cellar floor is a concrete slab. The floor joists, visible from the cellar, were all rebuilt, based upon circular saw marks. The central chimney stack, with its segmental-arched fireplace opening, was rebuilt along its original lines, and laid in a stretcher bond.

8. Significance

Inventory No. AA-678

Period	Areas of Significance		Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Significance dates ca. 1720; 1937

Architect Unknown

Specific dates ca. 1720; 1937

Builder Unknown

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Chancellor Johnson House was constructed circa 1720 at 9 Northwest Street. By 1778, Allen Quynn, a cordwainer and former Mayor of Annapolis, owned the dwelling on Lot 71 until his death in 1821. Ten years later, in 1831, John Johnson, Jr. had purchased the modest wood frame dwelling, in addition to the several other brick and wood frame buildings on the property. Serving as Chancellor of Maryland, Johnson and his family owned the gambrel roof house at 9 Northwest Street until 1918. Threatened with demolition, the building was given in 1937 to St. John's College. It was relocated to the southwestern edge of the campus, south of Mellon Hall on St. John's Street. The Chancellor Johnson House was the first of two buildings moved to the campus of St. John's College, the second being the circa 1724 Charles Carroll the Barrister House in 1955. The building is significant for its association with the Johnson family, and for its association with St. John's College's role in early preservation efforts in Annapolis. The Chancellor Johnson House is also significant architecturally as a one of Annapolis' earliest gambrel roof colonial dwellings.

*For a detailed history of St. John's College, refer to Maryland Historical Inventory Form, McDowell Hall (AA-675).

History of the Chancellor Johnson House at 9 North West Street

The Chancellor Johnson House was originally constructed at 9 Northwest Street, just north of Church Circle. This property, located on Lot 71 in Parcel 6, was surveyed in 1718 for John Slaughter (also seen as Slater). It consisted of 50 feet along Northwest Street with 50 feet fronting West Street, containing 42,260 square feet. The property was subsequently transferred to George Valentine. Elinor Clinton was appointed trustee for the late George Valentine in September 1718 and charged with selling his estate and holdings. Based on the deeds of conveyance, it appears that Lot 71 was subdivided and sold. Between April 1728 and August 1739, physician Samuel Stringer reunited the lot, purchasing it from at least three separate individuals. The property owned by Stringer on Lot 71 is described as having "at

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least three houses, two of them little.”³ Previous investigations of the architecture and the historical documentation have determined that the building later known as the Chancellor Johnson House was one of the three houses extant on Lot 71 when purchased by Stringer in the second quarter of the 18th century.⁴

By April 1770, attorney William Coale had been appointed to convey Lot 71 to Jonathan Pinkney. The improved lot was purchased for 660 pounds. Pinkney was forced to turn his property over to trustees who were ordered by the court to sell the lot to the highest bidder at a public sale. Purchased for 440 pounds sterling, the land was now owned by silversmith William Whetcroft. According to an announcement in the *Maryland Gazette*, the property included a “brick dwelling lately in occupation of John Ball, innholder.”⁵ Two years later, in 1778, Allen Quynn purchased Lot 71 for 1,500 pounds currency. A cordwainer and former Mayor of Annapolis, Quynn proceeded to construct a three-story brick dwelling fronting West Street. Based on subsequent tax assessments, it appears that the Chancellor Johnson House was used as rental property. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax charged Quynn with three buildings on Lot 71:

1. One story brick dwelling house, 40 by 20, no tenant, \$400 assessment
2. Three story brick dwelling house on West Street, 30 x 30, \$600 assessment with Frances Brice as tenant. [18 West Street]
3. One story frame dwelling house, 16 x 24, \$200 assessment with Jane Howard as tenant. [9 Northwest Street]⁶

With the death of Quynn in 1803, the one-story dwelling at 9 Northwest Street was bequeathed to his daughters, Elizabeth Claude and Jane Howard. Howard was living in the house at the time of Quynn's death. The remainder of Lot 71 was to be sold. However, the will was contested, and the estate remained in Chancery Court litigation for nearly twenty years. With the title of Quynn's estate eventually cleared, J. Randall was appointed to convey 28,288 square feet of Lot 71 to physician William Brewer (1804-1878) on April 6, 1821. The following day, Brewer sold 17,420 square feet of the property to Thomas Harris of Prince George's County. The land with its improvements along Northwest Street was purchased for \$1,200. The heirs of Harris sold the property ten years later on September 7, 1831 to John Johnson, Jr. for \$3,000.

³ Edward Papenfuss and Jane McWilliams. “Appendix F: Lot Histories and Maps, National Endowment for the Humanities Grant #69-0-178,” (Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, MD), page 45.

⁴ Historic American Building Survey, “Chancellor Johnson House,” MD-273. Prepared by F.T. Dunbar and O.R. Ridout, March 1865; Historic American Building Survey, “Reverdy Johnson House,” MD-273, Photographs by Jack E. Boucher, 1964.

⁵ *Maryland Gazette*, September 14, 1775.

⁶ Federal Direct Tax, 1798, folder 14.

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John Johnson, Jr. (1798-1856) appears to have lived in the dwelling on West Street, while leasing the building at 9 Northwest Street with his wife, Mary Tyler (1804-1858) of Upper Marlboro, and their seven children. Johnson was a graduate of St. John's College (class of 1820), studied law, and served as last Chancellor of Maryland from 1846 to 1851, when the position was abolished. Johnson's father, John Johnson, Sr., served as Chancellor of Maryland in 1821, Attorney General (1806-1811), and Judge of the Court of Appeals (1811). Brother Reverdy Johnson (1796-1876) was U.S. Senator (1845-1849 and 1863-1868), U.S. Attorney General (1849-1850), U.S. Minister to Great Britain (1868-1869), and negotiated the Johnson-Clarendon treaty for the adjustment of the *Alabama* claims.⁷ Reverdy Johnson was also a graduate of St. John's College (class of 1811). The house commonly known as the Chancellor Johnson House is often mistakenly named for Reverdy Johnson.

In December 1857, Nicholas Brewer, Judge of the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel, ordered that the real estate of the late John Johnson, Jr. had to be sold. His widow, Mary Tyler Johnson, purchased the subdivided lot on which the gambrel roof dwelling at 9 Northwest Street for \$675. Unfortunately, Mary Johnson died one year later. Her land holdings were devised between her sons, John III and George M. Johnson to hold as trustees for sister-in-law Henrietta E.H. Johnson, the wife of George Johnson (1817-1892). The modest wood frame dwelling on Northwest Street was owned and appears to have been leased by Henrietta Johnson until her death in 1896. At this time, the property was bequeathed to James I. Johnson (1847-1917). The son of Henrietta and George Johnson, James Iglehart Johnson worked as a telephone operator and then as an oyster packer. Together with wife, Emma Johnson, James Johnson owned the house until his death in 1917. The census records for 1900 document that James and Emma Johnson lived in the modest dwelling at 9 Northwest Street. Trustees for Emma Johnson sold the property to her brother-in-law Charles Johnson on May 12, 1917 for \$2,375. Charles Johnson (1864-1900) was the youngest son of Henrietta and George Johnson. He sold the property with its gambrel roof dwelling one year later to the widowed Emma A. Wilen for \$4,500, ending eighty-seven years of ownership by the Johnson family. Wilen, born in 1880 in Maryland, lived with her daughter Mary E. Wilen, in the dwelling on Northwest Street. The 1920 census records that Mary Wilen supported her mother and was proprietor of a store.

In 1923, the property was conveyed to Eugene W. Iglehart (1874-1939). Iglehart was a graduate of St. John's College (class of 1895), who worked as a real estate and insurance broker. Two years later, on May 2, 1925, it was sold to Ernestine Bigelow. The dwelling served as the home of Ernestine and John Bigelow for twelve years. In September 1937, the property and circa 1720 dwelling were conveyed to neighboring property owner, Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. The telephone company had constructed a one-and-a-half story brick building at 7 Northwest Street by 1908 to serve as office space. With the purchasing of the adjacent property at 9 Northwest Street, the telephone company planned to expand their services. This would have required that colonial dwelling be razed. The

⁷ McIntire, p. 368.

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telephone company agreed to give the building to the City of Annapolis with the provision that it be moved from the property on Northwest Street. The city then gave the historic building to St. John's College, the alma mater of Chancellor John Johnson. College President Stringfellow Barr agreed to move the building to the campus of St. John's College. It was moved in December 1937 to the southwestern edge of the campus, and sited to the northwest of the Pace-Carroll House. The building was sited to the northwest along St. John's Street. A new basement was excavated, a foundation of concrete block constructed, and the structure was restored in its new location. As the owners of the Chancellor Johnson House, St. John's College has used the building as a dormitory and faculty residence prior to its current use as the Alumni Relations office.

Chain of Title: Chancellor Johnson House at 9 Northwest Street

April 8, 1710: John Slaughter to George Valentine
Provincial Court Records
Liber PK Folio 478

September 10, 1718: Will of George Valentine directing Elinor Clinton to sell holdings
Provincial Court Records
Will Liber WB 6 Folio 716

October 4, 1718: Elinor Clinton to Charles Cole
Provincial Court Records
Liber IB 2 Folio 511

*Unable to locate additional deeds related to subdivision of Lot 71

April 16, 1728: Anne Street to Samuel Stringer
Provincial Court Records
Liber SY 1 Folio 427

February 7, 1735: Robert Jones to Samuel Stringer
Provincial Court Records
Liber RD 2 Folio 370

August 18, 1739: John Ramsey to Samuel Stringer
Provincial Court Records
Liber RD 3 Folio 227

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- April 6, 1770: William Coale for Samuel Stringer to Jonathan Pinkney
Provincial Court Records
Liber DD 4 Folio 682
- February 19, 1776: William Whetcroft purchased at auction
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber B Folio 405
- August 12, 1778: William Whetcroft to Allen Quynn
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber NH 1 Folio 11
- April 6, 1821: John Wirt Randall, trustee for the estate of Allen Quynn to William Brewer
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber WSG 7 Folio 585
- April 7, 1821: William Brewer to Thomas Harris
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber WSG 7 Folio 602
- September 7, 1831: Heirs of Thomas Harris to John Johnson, Jr.
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber WSG 16 Folio 509
- December 21, 1857: Nicholas Brewer, Judge of the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County, ordered
real estate of John Johnson, Jr. be sold. Mary Tyler Johnson bought frame house
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Equity Record 159
- September 29, 1858: Mary Tyler Johnson bequeathed to Henrietta Johnson
Will Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber IPC 28 Folio 293
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber NHG 9 Folio 384
- 1893: Heirs of Henrietta Johnson to James I. Johnson
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber GW 2 Folio 234

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February 20, 1917: Will of James I. Johnson devised to Emma Johnson

May 12, 1917: Trustees of Emma Johnson to Charles Johnson
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber GW 134 Folio 309

May 29, 1918: Charles Johnson to Emma A. Wilen
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber GW 139 Folio 289

1923: Emma A. Wilen to Eugene W. Iglehart
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber WNW 73 Folio 87

May 2, 1925: Eugene W. Iglehart to Ernestine Bigelow
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber WNW 105 Folio 352

September 1937: Ernestine Bigelow to Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber FAM 172 Folio 54

Dwelling moved in December 1937 to campus of St. John's College on St. Johns Street.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification (1680-1815)
Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)
Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community
Planning
Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
EDUCATION/College

Known Design Source:

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

AA-678

"A Brief History: St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland," Pamphlet prepared by St. John's College.

Historic American Building Survey, "Chancellor Johnson House," MD-273. Prepared by F.T. Dunbar and O.R. Ridout, March 1865.

Historic American Building Survey, "Reverdy Johnson House," MD-273, Photographs by Jack E. Boucher, 1964.

Maryland Historical Trust vertical property files, Crownsville, MD.

Miller, Marcia M., and Orlando Ridout V, editors, *Architecture in Annapolis: A Field Guide*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1998.

Murphy, Emily A. *A Complete and Generous Education: 300 Years of Liberal Arts, St. John's College, Annapolis.* Annapolis, MD, St. John's College Press, 1996.

Riley, Elihu S. *The Ancient City, A History of Annapolis in Maryland, 1649-1887*. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company, Inc., 1995.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area	<u>1 acre</u>
Acreage surveyed	<u>33 acres</u>
Quadrangle name	<u>Annapolis, MD</u>

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Chancellor Johnson House is located on the campus of St. John's College, established at this site in 1784. The college is recorded on Tax Map 4-6, Parcel 458. It is bounded by College Avenue to the southeast, King George Street to the northeast, St. John Street to the southwest, and College Creek to the northwest. The building has been associated with this site since its relocation in 1937.

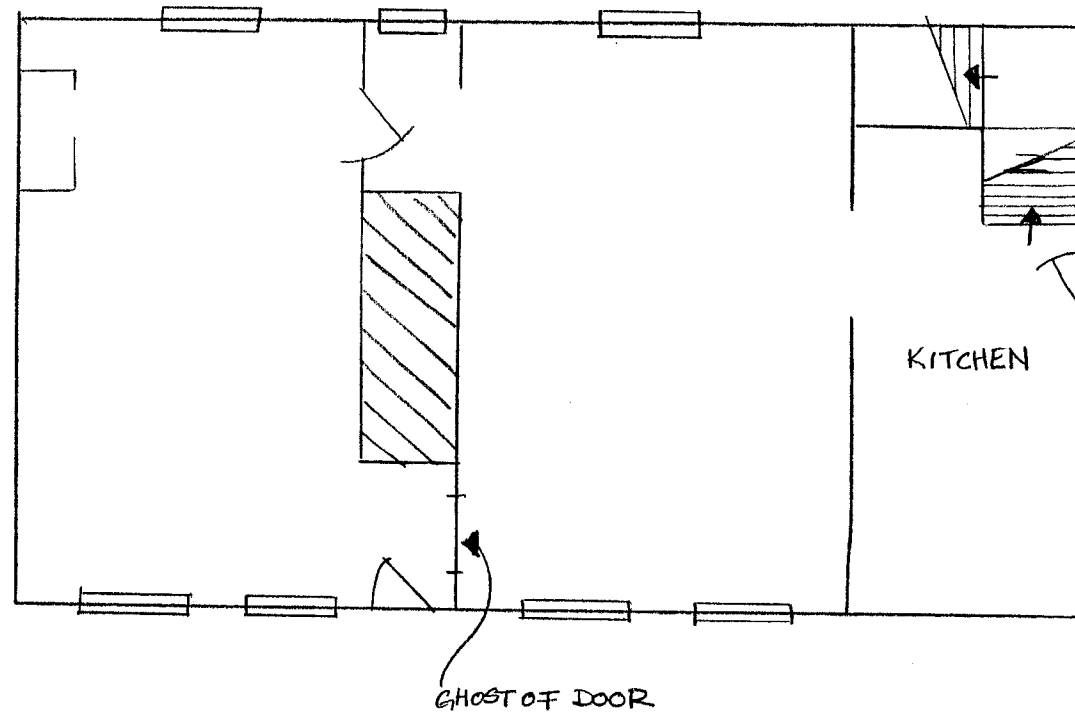
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	<u>Laura Trieschmann and Kim Williams, Architectural Historians April 21, 2000</u>
organization	<u>E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.</u>
street & number	<u>5420 Western Avenue</u>
city or town	<u>Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815</u>

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600



CHANCELLOR JOHNSON HOUSE
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
FIRST FLOOR

↙ NORTH
NOT TO SCALE

AA-678

HABS-MDDC

MD 273

BLUE

Form 3B

VII.15.1959

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Historian's Work Sheet for "Photo-data Books" (Part I)

Name of Structure Chancellor Johnson HouseAddress Maryland, Anne Arundel, Annapolis, St. John's College Campus

State, county, township, locality, street address or location

Present Owner (give address) St. John's CollegePresent Occupant Students of St. John's CollegePresent Use Dormitory

Brief Statement of Significance (historical): This fine example of an early eighteenth century gambrel-roofed dwelling was long in the possession of the Johnson family.

PHYSICAL HISTORY (All statements shall be documented)

Original and subsequent owners

Complete deeds citation attached herewith

Date of Erection Probably first quarter of the eighteenth centuryArchitect No recordBuilder, suppliers, etc. No recordOriginal plans, construction, etc. No record

Notes on alterations and additions

The house, despite its move, is basically unaltered. Modern plumbing, heating, and electricity have been installed to make the house suitable for residence of tutors and/or students.

HISTORICAL EVENTS CONNECTED WITH STRUCTURE

This was the family home of Chancellor John Johnson, Jr. for many years. As the actual date of building is uncertain it would be impossible to say which of the early property owners erected this house.

Important old views
(with location)

Contemporary record photographs by
M.E. Warren, Annapolis, Md.

Sources of information Duvall, R.R., "Lot #71, A Brief Historical (with location) Sketch," MD.Hist. Mag., March 1959, p.104

Land Records and Wills: Hall of Records & Anne Arundel County Court House

Likely sources not yet investigated It is possible that there are letters and documents of the Johnson family preserved at the Maryland Historical Society and the Hall of Records which have not yet been searched.

Prepared by F.T. Dunbar/ O.R. Ridout

Date March 1965

Research Staff,
Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Annapolis, Inc.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOCUMENTATION

Published references: Give author's full name, exact title from title page (underlined), publisher, place of publication, date, page references.

Manuscript references: Give Location of manuscript and note if longhand or typed. Cite "from," "to," date, etc.

Interviews: If information came from a personal interview, give complete name and address of informant.

CONTINUATIONS: Any of the above entries may be continued on additional sheets. Exact transcripts in quotes from pertinent documents are especially welcomed as appendices or otherwise.

AA-678

Reverdy Johnson House
Saint John's College (moved from 9 Northwest St.)
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-273

HABS
P
2-ANNA
56-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

AA-678
HABS
MD,
2-ANNA
56-

Reverdy Johnson House
Saint John's College (moved from 9 Northwest St.)
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland.

HABS No. MD-273

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer 1964

MD-273-1 MAIN ELEVATION

MD-273-2 REAR ELEVATION

MD-273-3 SECOND FLOOR, FIREPLACE

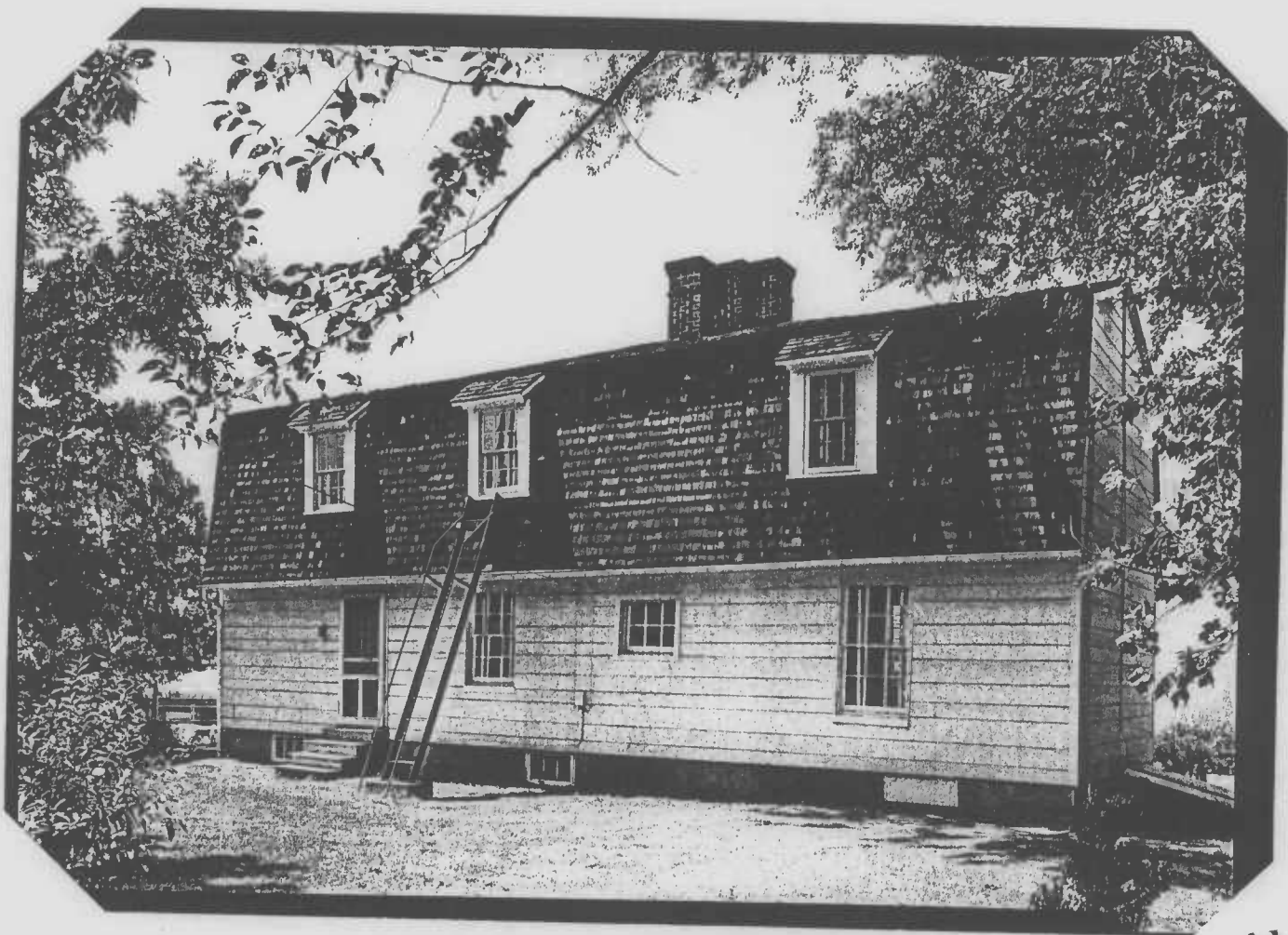
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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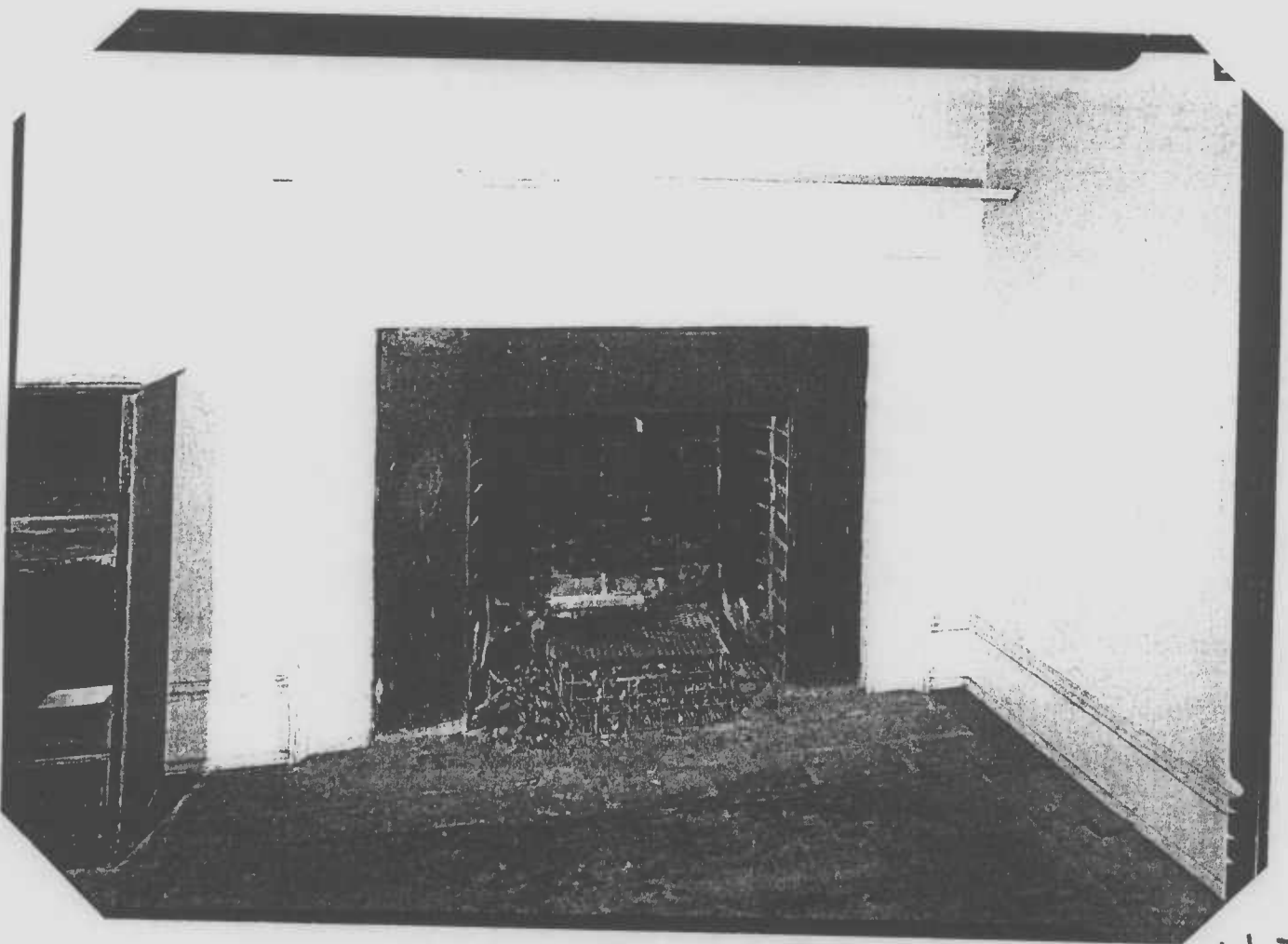
AA-678

AA-678

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

HABS No. MD-273-3

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2-ANNI
56-3



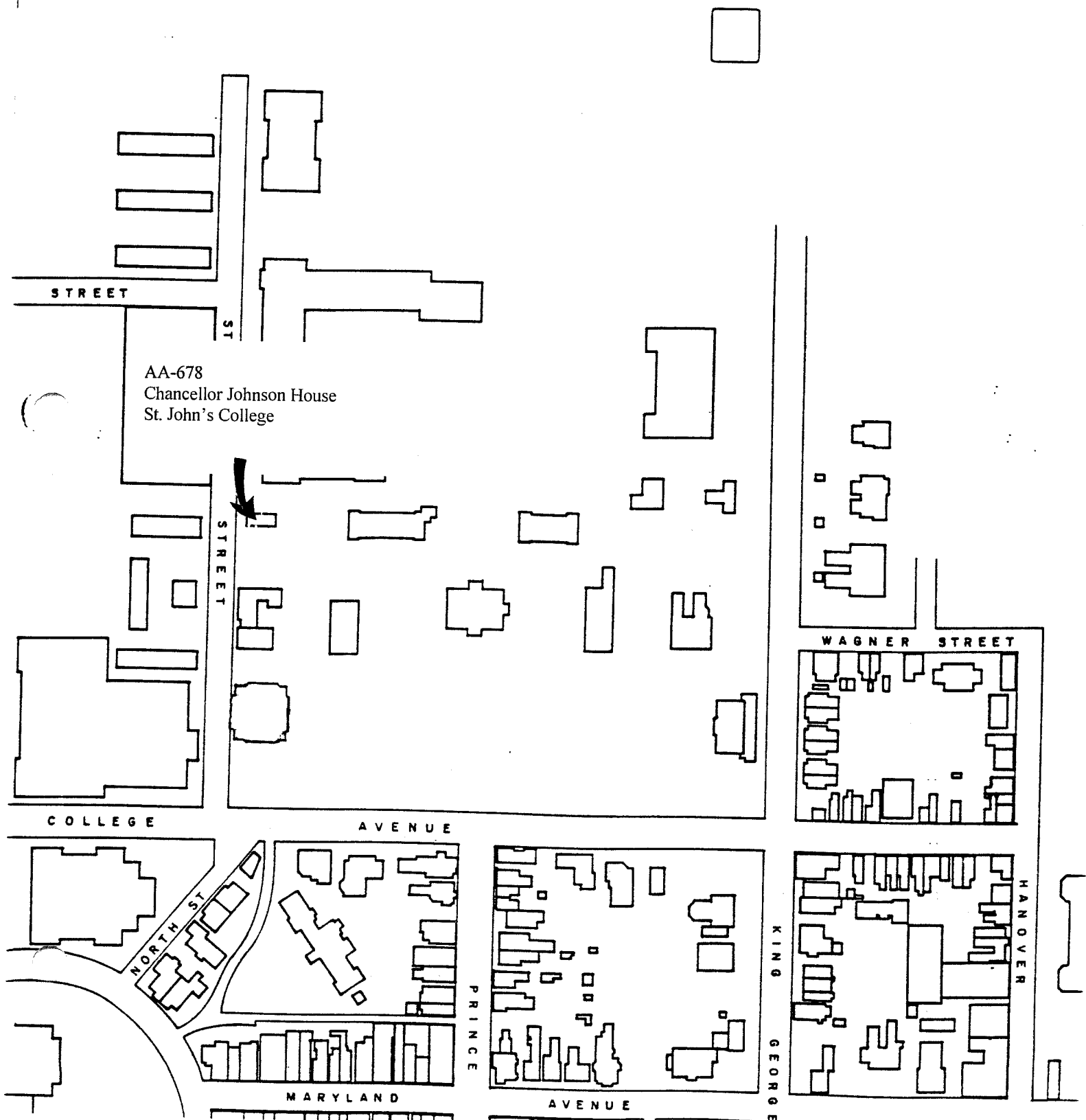
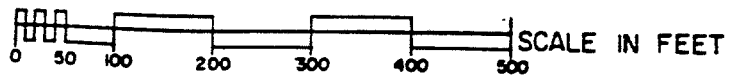
ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Maryland	COUNTY Anne Arundel	TOWN OR VICINITY Annapolis
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Reverdy Johnson House		HABS NO. MD-273
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Saint John's College (moved from 9 Northwest St.)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) An interesting example of a rather unpretentious vernacular type which has been somewhat altered and partially restored.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Frame covered with horizontal beaded boards, 6-3/4" to 10-1/4" wide.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) One and one-half stories; six bay front; approximately 14'x40'; rectangular plan.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE T-shaped brick chimney, rebuilt when house moved; gambrel roof covered with wood shingles, three dormers on both main and rear elevations with shed roofs continuing the slope of the upper roof.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Each floor is divided into three rooms: on the first floor there are two rooms with separate access and a stair hall. On the second floor the three rooms are connected by a lateral corridor. The first floor rooms have walls and ceiling of plaster above a narrow wood base and a large simple fire-		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES (see DATA SHEET (2))		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good condition as of 1964		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The house originally stood on Northwest St., and faced Northwest. It is now located on the campus of Saint John's College, near St. John St.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Edited from a report submitted by Harley J. McKee, N.P.S. Architect (8/13/64)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleni Silverman, HABS Architectural Historian		DATE July 1983

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (CONT'D)

place with wooden mantel which appears to date from the mid-nineteenth century.

On the second floor, the walls and ceiling are of plaster, above a very narrow wood base. Openings have plain trim, and there is a small "picture mold" cornice. Each room has a wooden mantelpiece whose opening is framed by an architrave and plain frieze. Although these mantelpieces appear to be somewhat earlier than those on the first floor, there is no evidence that they are original.





AA-678

CHANCELLOR JOHNSON HOUSE

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

NW ELEVATION LOOKING EAST

1 OF 9



AA-678

CHANCELLOR JOHNSON HOUSE

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

NORTH CORNER, LOOKING SOUTH

2 OF 9



AA-678

CHANCELLOR JOHNSON HOUSE

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRAILERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

SE ELEVATION LOOKING NW

30F 9



AA-678

CHANCELLOR JOHNSON HOUSE
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

FIRST FLOOR NE ROOM, LOOKING SOUTH

4 OF 9



AA-678

CHANCELLOR JOHNSON HOUSE
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, SW ROOM LOOKING EAST

5 OF 9



AA-678
CHANCELLOR JOHNSON HOUSE
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

SECOND FLOOR HALL, LOOKING
SW

6 OF 9



AA-678

CHANCELLOR JOHNSON HOUSE

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

SECOND FLOOR, SW ROOM, LOOKING EAST

7 OF 9



AA-678

CHANCELLOR JOHNSON HOUSE

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

SECOND FLOOR, NE ROOM, LOOKING WEST

8 OF 9



AA-678

CHANCELLOR JOHNSON HOUSE

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

BASEMENT, LOOKING SW

9 OF 9

AA-678

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: <u>AA 1584</u>
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Chancellor Johnson House
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
PRESENT USE: office
ORIGINAL USE: Residence
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent (X) Good () Fair () Poor: ()
THEME:
STYLE: F. Georgian
DATE BUILT: 1720/moved here 1937

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION: St. John's
COMMON NAME: Reverdy-Johnson Hall
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: RES Map 31 Par 20
OWNER: St. John's College ADDRESS: College Ave. Annapolis, MD 21401
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes (X) No () Restricted ()
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: HABS Local () State (X) National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

- Foundation: Stone() Brick(X) Concrete() Concrete Block()
- Wall Structure
 - Wood Frame: Post and Beam() Balloon(X)
 - Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick() Stone() Concrete() Concrete Block()
 - Iron() D. Steel() E. Other:
- Wall Covering: Clapboard() Board and Batten() Wood Shingle() Shiplap()
Novelty() Stucco() Sheet Metal() Aluminum() Asphalt Shingle()
Brick Veneer() Stone Veneer() Asbestos Shingle()
Bonding Pattern: Other: Flush, beaded horizontal siding
- Roof Structure
 - Truss: Wood(X) Iron() Steel() Concrete()
 - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate() Wood Shingle(X) Asphalt Shingle() Sheet Metal()
Built Up() Rolled() Tile() Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

Appendages: Porches() Towers() Cupolas() Dormers(X) Chimneys(X) Sheds() Ells()
Wings () Other:

Roof Style: Gable() Hip() Shed() Flat() Mansard() Gambrel(X) Jerkinhead()
Saw Tooth() With Monitor() With Bellcast() With Parapet() With False Front()
Other:

Number of Stories: 2

Number of Bays: 6

Approximate Dimensions 20 x 40

Entrance Location: West End

THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat(X) Zoning() Roads() Development() Deterioration() Alteration () Other:	LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive() Negative() Mixed() Other:
---	--

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

AA-678

Also known as the Allen Quynn House, it has an abrupt gambrel roof with massive central chimney, shed dormers assymetrically placed, molded casings at windows.

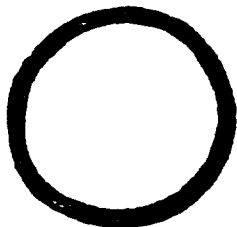
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Moved here in 1937 from 9 Northwest Street, a good example of modest early 18thC Vernacular construction, important as a type and contributing, despite its out of the way location, to the townscape of the campus.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane() Woodland() Scattered Buildings()
 Moderately Built Up(✓) Densely-Built Up()
 Residential() Commercial()
 Agricultural() Industrial()
 Roadside Strip Development()
 Other:

RECORDED BY:

Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION:

Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED:

Aug. 1983

1. STATE Annapolis, Maryland		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY	
COUNTY	VICINITY	2. NAME Allen Quynn House	
TOWN		DATE OR PERIOD c. 1730	
STREET NO. St. John's Street		STYLE Colonial	
ORIGINAL OWNER	ORIGINAL USE Residence	ARCHITECT	
PRESENT OWNER St. John's College	PRESENT USE	BUILDER	
WALL CONSTRUCTION Clapboard	NO. OF STORIES 2	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION	OPEN TO PUBLIC No
--	-------------------

The Allen Quynn House is one of Annapolis' early 18th Century houses of the gambrel roof type (45 Fleet, 53 Cornhill, etc.), however, the Quynn House, though seemingly more modest than the others, appears to be closer to its original state. There is a giant central chimney and the very abrupt gambrel is covered with wood shingle; the dormer windows are small and are unsymmetrically placed. The clapboarding is of the shiplap type. Better example of early typical home than, for example, larger house such as Carroll-Settler.

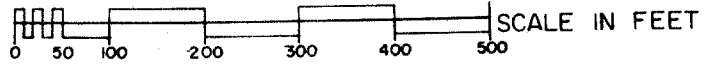


Exterior



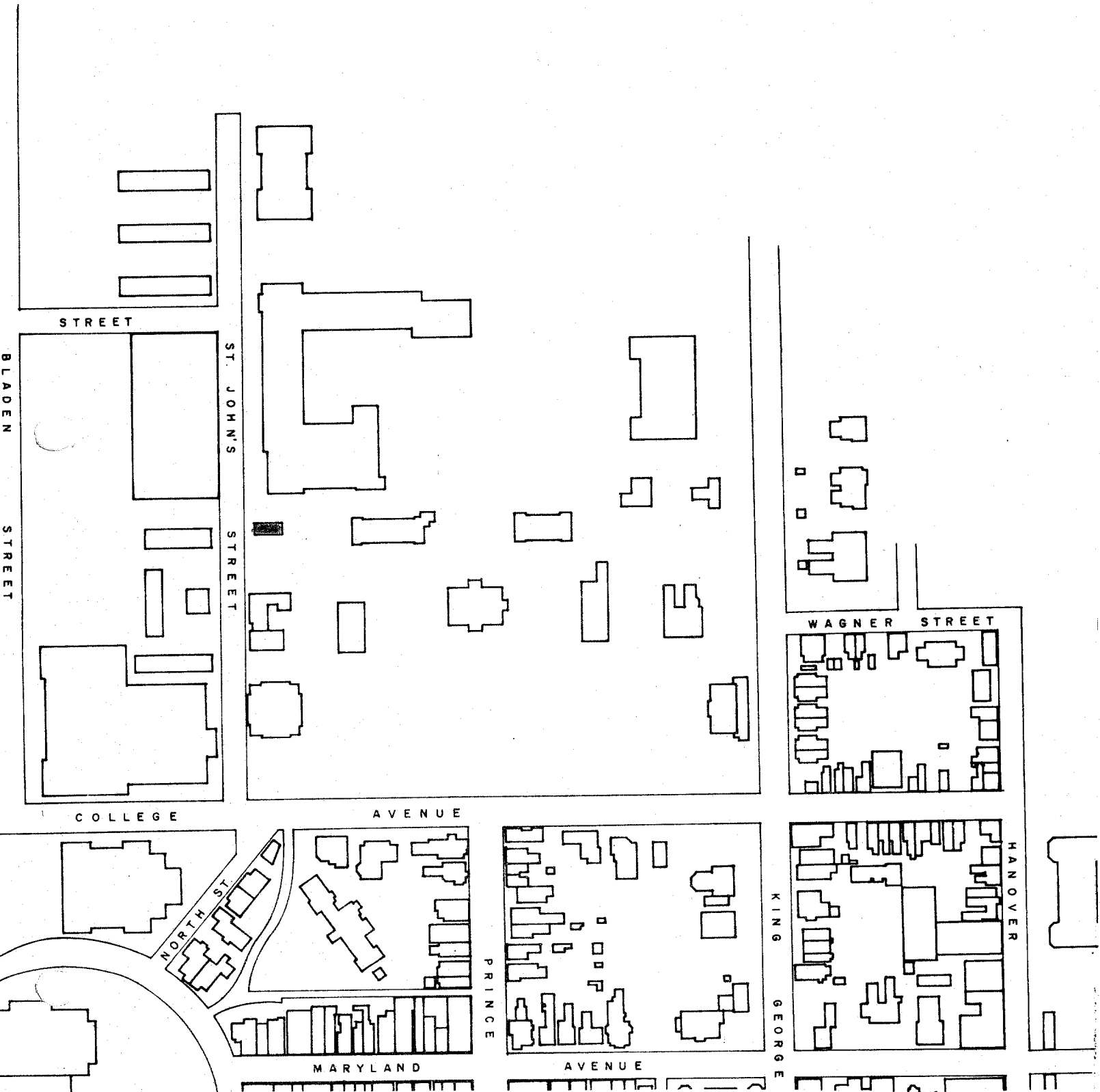
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH H. A., Inc.
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER William D. Morgan Columbia University New York City DATE OF RECORD August 22, 1967

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



AA-678

AA-1584
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.





Reverdy Johnson Hse
St Johns

AA-678

~~AA-1584~~

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

SE Elevation/camera facing NW